

FAX COVER

Date : 1/12/2002

To: Attorney General Ashcroft

Company :

Fax Number : 1-202-307-1454

From : Fred Buhler

Company :

Fax Number : 616-731-2557

Message:

Please consider the attached letter.

Thank you, Fred Buhler

Transmission Problems 616-731-5277

WinFax PRO Cover Page

MTC-00031091_0001

Fred C. Buhler
8095 Fernwood Dr.
Augusta, Michigan 49012

Attorney General John Ashcroft
U.S. Justice Department
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

My purpose in writing is to address the antitrust settlement reached between Microsoft and the Justice Department. I am in agreement with the current settlement and I wish to see Microsoft freed of further legal wrangling. Bringing a swift end to the antitrust case is of the utmost importance given our current economic situation. We have already poured a great deal of resources into these proceedings and now is the time to move forward, not continue rehashing a three-year-old issue.

The terms of the settlement with the Department of Justice seem both punitive and reasonable. Microsoft will have to open relevant portions of its Windows code to software suppliers and competitors, permit computer makers to configure Windows with other software and give competitive browsers a more equal footing. I believe that future computer users are being awarded protections from the violations that were raised as issues in this proceeding.

I have been opposed to this proceeding from the start. It troubles me to see companies like Microsoft have their competitive edge dulled by interminable antitrust intrusion. Nevertheless, I now sense that the settlement is a correct course of action. We need to put this unfortunate episode behind us and hope that Microsoft can get back to the challenge of creating new and better products rather than languishing in court.

Sincerely,



Fred C. Buhler

Saturday, January 12, 2002.max

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